Listing of the Claims:

1. (Original) A roller apparatus for releasible mounting over a skate blade mounted on a boot by blade mounting means, the apparatus comprising:

a skate guard having an open ended, longitudinally extended recess for receiving a skate blade therein and a plurality of apertures extending transversely therethrough spaced from the recess;

a heel strap mountable in one of the apertures in the skate guard and disposed about the holder means;

a rail having a base wall and a pair of spaced sidewalls extending therefrom, the sidewalls adapted to slidably receive the skate guard therein;

a plurality of pairs of apertures in the sidewalls of the rail adapted for alignment with at least one aperture in the skate guard; and

a pair of axles carrying wheels, the axles mounted in one pair of apertures in the rail and adapted to extend through one of the apertures in the skate guard.

2. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim ~~1~~ 60 further comprising:

a front strap connectable to the ~~rail~~ skate guard and mountable over one of the blade and the blade mounting means.

3. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein:

the rail is a one-piece, monolithic member.

4. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein:

the rail is formed of two spaced members.

5. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1 further comprising:

a lock member carried on the rail and adapted to be positioned over an upper edge of a rear end of an ice skate blade to retain the rear end of the ice skate blade in the rail.

6. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim ~~1~~ 2 wherein the front strap

comprises:

a strap member having opposed ends; and

connector means carried on the strap member for cooperative engagement adapted to fix the strap member to the skate guard and about the blade mounting means.

7. (Original) The apparatus of claim 6 wherein the connector means comprises:

mating hook and pile portions carried on the strap member.

8. (Original) The apparatus of claim 6 wherein the connector means comprises:

a crossbar carried at one end of the strap member; and

an aperture carried at an opposite end of the strap member for receiving the crossbar.

9. (Original) The apparatus of claim 6 wherein the connector means comprises:

an enlarged head carried at one end of the strap member; and

at least one aperture carried on an opposite portion of the strap member and inter-engagable with the head.

10. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim ~~10~~ 9 wherein:

the at least one aperture is a keyhole shaped slot.

11. (Original) The apparatus of claim 7 wherein the connector means comprises:

a plurality of spaced projections carried at one end of the strap member; and

a plurality of spaced apertures carried at a spaced portion of the strap member, the apertures engagable with the projections.

12. (Original) The apparatus of claim 6 wherein the connector means comprises:

an enlarged head carried at one end of the strap member; and

an aperture carried at an opposite portion of the strap member and engagable with the head.

13. (Original) The apparatus of claim 6 wherein the connector means comprises:

an enlarged head carried at one end of the strap member engagable with one sidewall of the rail;

a plurality of apertures carried at an opposite portion of the strap member; and

a plurality of projections carried on the sidewall of the rail and projecting therefrom for engagement with the projections.

14. (Original) The apparatus of claim 6 wherein the connector means comprises:

an enlarged head carried at each end of the strap member;

each head engagable with an opposite one of the sidewalls of the rail to secure the strap member in a wrapped configuration about the rail and the blade mounting means.

15. (Original) The apparatus of claim 6 further comprising:

a pin mountable through one pair of apertures in the rail and one of the apertures in the skate guard, the pin engagable with the strap member to secure the strap member to the rail.

16. (Original) The apparatus of claim 15 wherein:

the pin has an enlarged head at one end for engagement with one of the sidewalls of the rail and an aperture in one end of the strap member; and

an opposite end of the pin extending outward from an opposite sidewall of the rail and through an aperture at an opposite end of the strap member.

17. (Original) The apparatus of claim 6 further comprising:

a pin mountable through one pair of apertures in the rail and one aperture in a skate blade, and adapted to mount through an aperture in the skate guard; and

the strap member having an enlarged head at one end engagable with one of the sidewalls of the rail, the strap member extending from the enlarged head to an opposite end, an aperture carried in the opposite end of the strap member and engagable with the pin to secure the one end of the strap member to the pin.

18. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim ~~1~~ 60 further comprising:

a heel strap mountable in one of the apertures in the skate guard and disposed about ~~the~~ a blade holder ~~means~~ attached to a boot.

19. (Canceled).

20. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim ~~19~~ 60 further comprising:

a front strap connectable to the rail and mountable over one of the blade and the blade mounting means; and

an aperture formed in the skate guard for receiving the front strap therethrough.

21. (Currently Amended) The roller apparatus of claim ~~1~~ 60 wherein:

each axle is mountable in one variably selected aperture in the ~~rail to~~ skate guard to variably space the pair of axles along the ~~rail~~ skate guard.

22. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1 further comprising;

wheel mounting means, carried on the rail, for carrying at least one rotatable wheel.

23. (Original) The apparatus of claim 22 wherein;

the wheel mounting means is disposed at forward and rearward ends of the rail.

24. (Original) The apparatus of claim 22 wherein the wheel mounting means comprises:

a pair of plates carried on the rail, each of the plates having a portion depending from the rail for supporting the at least one rotatable wheel.

25. (Original) The apparatus of claim 23 wherein:

the pair of plates are fixed to the rail by means of fasteners.

26. (Original) The apparatus of claim 23 wherein:

the pair of plates are monolithically formed as a one piece part of the rail.

27. (Original) The apparatus of claim 23 wherein:

each portion of the pair of plates depending from the rail includes an aperture for receiving a wheel axle.

28. (Original) The apparatus of claim 23 wherein;

the aperture is an open ended slot.

29. (Original) The apparatus of claim 23 wherein:

the pair of plates are affixed to the rail to support at least one frontmost rotatable wheel and at least one rearmost rotatable wheel in an axially in-line arrangement.

30. (Original) The apparatus of claim 23 wherein:

the pair of plates supports at least one pair of frontmost mounted wheels and one pair of rearmost mounted wheels.

31. (Original) The apparatus of claim 22 further comprising:
lock means for releasibly locking a skate blade to the rail.

32. (Original) The apparatus of claim 31 wherein:
the lock means is carried on at least one of the plates of the pair of plates.

33. (Original) The apparatus of claim 31 wherein the lock means comprises:

a biased pin carried in a housing, the housing mounted on one of the plates of the pair of plates; and

an actuator, coupled to the pin, for moving the pin between first and second positions, the pin, when in the first position, adapted to be disposed over the skate blade for locking a skate blade in the rail.

34. (Original) The apparatus of claim 33 wherein the actuator comprises:
a pivotal lever.

35. (Original) The apparatus of claim 33 further comprising:

biasing means acting on the actuator for biasing the actuator toward a first position wherein an end of the actuator is disposed in a position to lock a skate blade in the rail.

36. (Original) The apparatus of claim 34 further comprising:
means connecting the actuator to the pin.

37. (Original) The apparatus of claim 35 further comprising:

means for mounting the actuator and the biased pin to one of the rail and the mounting plate.

38. (Original) The apparatus of claim 31 further comprising:

mounting means for mounting the lock means to one of the plate and the rail.

39. (Original) The apparatus of claim 38 wherein the lock means further comprises:

the actuator including a pivotal lever end;

biasing means, acting on the lever end; and

an elongated end of the actuator, opposite the lever end, extendable through a recess in the mounting means to overlay the channel in the rail when the biasing means normally biases the lock means to a first position.

40. (Original) The apparatus of claim 33 wherein the actuator comprises:

a pull ring coupled to the pin.

41. (Original) The apparatus of claim 31 wherein the lock means comprises:

a rotatable member carried in a housing mounted on one of the plates of the pair of plates, the rotatable member coupled to an actuator and moveable between a first position overlaying the recess in the skate guard and a second position spaced from the recess in the skate guard.

42. (Original) The apparatus of claim 22 further comprising:

lock means for releasibly locking a skate blade in the skate guard mounted in the rail.

43. (Original) The apparatus of claim 42 wherein:

the lock means is carried on the rail.

44. (Original) The apparatus of claim 42 wherein:

the lock means comprises a biased pin carried in a housing, the housing mounted on the rail; and

an actuator, coupled to the pin, for moving the pin between first and second positions, the pin, when in the first position, disposed over the skate guard for locking a skate blade in the skate guard.

45. (Original) The apparatus of claim 44 wherein the actuator comprises:
a pivotal lever coupled to the pin.

46. (Original) The apparatus of claim 44 wherein:
the actuator comprises a pull ring coupled to the pin.

47. (Original) The apparatus of claim 22 further comprising:
at least one frontmost and at least one rearmost wheel mounted axially in-line by the wheel mounting means on the rail.

48. (Original) The apparatus of claim 47 wherein:
the wheel mounting means mounts a plurality of wheels on at least one of a frontmost and rearmost end of the rail.

49. (Original) The apparatus of claim 44 further comprising:
lock means for releasibly locking a skate blade in the mounted in the rail.

50. (Original) The apparatus of claim 49 wherein:
the lock means is carried on the rail.

51. (Original) The apparatus of claim 50 wherein the lock means comprises:
a biased pin carried in a housing, the housing mounted on the rail; and
an actuator, coupled to the pin, for moving the pin between first and second positions, the pin, when in the first position, disposed over the skate guard for locking a skate blade in the rail.

52. (Original) The apparatus of claim 51 comprises:
a pivotal lever coupled to the pin.

53. (Original) The apparatus of claim 51 wherein the actuator comprises:

a pull ring coupled to the pin.

54. (Original) The apparatus of claim 50 wherein the lock means comprises:

a rotatable member carried in a housing carried on the rail, rotatable member coupled to an actuator and moveable between a first position overlaying the blade and a second position spaced from the blade.

55. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1 further comprising:

a brake member fixed to one end of the rail and extending from the one end of the rail.

56. (Original) The apparatus of claim 24 further comprising:

a heel strap; and

means for mounting the heel strap to the pair of plates.

57. (Original) The apparatus of claim 56 wherein the mounting means comprises:

at least one aperture in each of the plates adapted for receiving one end of the heel strap.

58. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 57 further comprising:

securing means for securing the ends of the heel strap on the plates. ~~e apparatus of claim 57 wherein the heel strap comprises~~:

59. (Original) The apparatus of claim 57 wherein the heel strap comprises:

an elastic strap

60. (Currently Amended) A roller apparatus releasibly mountable over an ice skate blade attached ~~by mounting means~~ to a boot by a blade mount, the roller

apparatus comprising:

a skate guard having an open ended channel for receiving a skate ice blade therein;

a plurality of apertures extending transversely along the length of the skate guard; and

pairs of wheel assemblies, each having an axle mountable through one of the apertures in the skate guard~~; and~~

~~lock means, attachable to one of the apertures in the skate guard and disposed about at least one of an ice skate blade and an ice skate blade holder~~.

61. (Currently Amended) The roller apparatus of claim 60 ~~wherein the lock means~~ further ~~comprises~~ comprising:

a lock member ~~connectable to the rail and~~ mountable over one of the blade and the blade mounting means.

62. (Original) The roller apparatus of claim 61 further comprising:

an aperture formed in the skate guard for receiving the lock member therethrough.

63. – 65. (Canceled)

66. (Currently Amended) The roller apparatus of claim ~~63~~ 61 wherein the lock ~~means~~ member comprises:

a strap member having opposed ends; and

a connector ~~means~~ carried on the strap for cooperative engagement to fix the strap member to the skate guard and about of the blade ~~supports~~ mount.

67. (Cancelled)

68. (Currently Amended) In combination with a skate having a blade and a blade ~~mounting means~~ mount connecting the blade to a boot, ~~the apparatus of~~ a roller

apparatus comprising:

a support having a base wall and a pair of sidewalls extending therefrom, the sidewalls spaced to define a longitudinally extending aperture for receiving a skate blade therein;

a plurality of transversely extending apertures formed along the length of the base wall of the support; and

a pair of axles, each carrying wheels, the axles mounted in selectable ones of the apertures in the support in a variably selectable, spaced apart manner.